



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023

We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kma'ki the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

Warden Wier called the COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 at 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden Wier	Councillor Harpell
Deputy Warden Fuller	Councillor Mailman
Councillor Baker	Councillor Zinck

Also Attending:

Marissa Jordan, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)
Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk

Absent with Regrets:

Councillor Malloy

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On motion of Councillor Harpell, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, January 18th, 2023.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Presentations

a. Sherbrooke RCMP

- Corporal Marc Michon introduced himself and explained his duties have changed in the past year. He is the District Commander of Sherbrooke, Guysborough, and Canso.
- Constable Darcy Doucette introduced himself as the acting corporal for the Sherbrooke area. He came here from Manitoba, where he worked for the past 13 years. Constable Doucette has been here for about 6-7 months.
- Constable Tom Thordarson introduced himself. He came here from Newfoundland, where he worked for the past 11 years.

- There will be a change over in staff this year. Constable Green is due out this year, and the detachment is currently waiting for a replacement for him. He will not be transferred until a replacement is found.
- Training exercises were down in the past couple of years due to Covid-19. Now that restrictions have been lifted, training is active and many members are trying to catch up on missed training. As a result, there are a lot of staff going on training, which causes strains on available staff.

Constable Thordarson left the meeting at 4:06pm.

- Corporal Michon provided an update on the services provided in 2022. There were a total of 1587 calls for service throughout Guysborough, Sherbrooke, and Canso. Sherbrooke was the busiest area with 650 calls. There are 4 members working out of the Sherbrooke detachment and three members working out of the Guysborough detachment.
- Call for service is increasing and there was a rise in the calls related to mental health. There are approximately 25 missed dials a week and those calls still need to be attended to. There were 16 calls for crimes against persons, including assault, but not including domestic violence. There were 27 calls for mischief, this does not include break and enter. There were 35 calls for well being checks, which is an increase.
- In 2022 in the Sherbrooke area 119 speeding tickets were issued. This does not include tickets for lack of insurance, license plates, or a suspended license.

Constable Thordarson entered the meeting at 4:10pm.

- The Sherbrooke detachment has received more equipment to fight against impaired driving. More officers will be trained in the instrument.
- Corporal Michon is planning a BBQ for this year to celebrate the RCMP's 150 anniversary. Constable Doucette is the school liaison for this year. Earlier this year, Sherbrooke RCMP did a fundraiser and donated approximately \$600 to the breakfast program at SMECA and plan to do another fundraiser to benefit youth in the community. Constable Doucette will also be organizing a volleyball game or basketball at the school with the youth and invited Council to join.
- All four RCMP members are living in Sherbrooke in the RCMP housing.
- Council asked how 2022 has compared to 2021. Corporal Michon answered that it is improving, but the biggest issue faced by Sherbrooke RCMP is that Guysborough is the biggest county within the province, and Sherbrooke has the biggest area to cover within the county. If there is an emergency, a the on-duty member is on the opposite side of the coverage area, a member will be called in on overtime, and that member will get there before the member on duty.
- Sherbrooke detachment now has more flexibility for calling for members on overtime due to having an additional vehicle. There are always two vehicles in the detachment parking lot with one officer on duty, one on call, and another can be called in for back up.
- Council asked how much the RCMP vests weigh. Constable Doucette answered that the vest weighs about 30-35 pounds.

- Council asked about uncollectable fines last year. Constable Michon answered that due to covid court dates were postponed. If the individual is found guilty or fails to appear at their court date the province places the fine on the individual's driver's license where it will remain until it is paid or until they go to renew their license and will be required to pay it.
- Council asked about the generator for the RCMP detachment. Corporal Michon answered that it is going to be installed in fiscal year 2023. In addition, Sherbrooke members will be getting issued with new tasers this year, the current ones are out of date.
- Council shared that they had received a complaint about people speeding at the school when children are present. Constable Michon shared that the RCMP are aware of this issue.
- Council asked if RCMP are having issues with people sharing their locations. The RCMP answered that this is a real issue that they face when trying to patrol some areas.
- Council asked if the RCMP could do anything about people parking on the new sidewalks in Sherbrooke and in front of the Dry Hydrant at 16 Main Street. Corporal Michon asked if Council has the ability to create a by-law against these actions and give the RCMP authority to enforce it.
- Corporal Michon asked if the Municipality owns the Sherbrooke Wharf and Council answered that it does not. Corporal Michon shared that there was an increase of visitors, which resulted in complaints about people dumping their gray water in the river. The RCMP would need a bylaw enacted to enforce no dumping of gray water. Currently there is nothing the police can do.
- Corporal Michon asked if Council has a project planned to construct apartments by the school. Council responded that there are no development plans for that property. Corporal Michon shared that if there is a housing development it could result in an increase in population which could increase call volumes and the RCMP would have to consider that for staffing purposes.
- Corporal Michon asked about the status of the Cochrane Hill Gold Mine, for the purpose of potential population growth. Council responded that St. Barbara let their provincial permit lapse under the previous process and will need to resubmit under the new provincial process.

Corporal Michon, Constable Doucette & Constable Thordarson left the meeting at 4:37 pm.

8. Correspondence

a. Thank You – Sherbrooke Village

- Correspondence was received from Sherbrooke Village thanking Council for the letter of support to the Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage for increased investment in Sherbrooke Village and other locally managed sites across Nova Scotia.

9. Other Matters of Business:

a. Water Utility Systems Assessment Report – Proposal Responses

- On January 11th, 2023 the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's (MODSM) requested proposals from qualified consultants to conduct a System Assessment Report (SAR) for the Sherbrooke Water Utility. Upon the closing deadline of January 31st, 2023, the Municipality received two proposal responses and evaluated based on the overall understanding of the project expectations, the firm/project team qualifications, proposed methodology, action plan, timelines, references, and costs.

- Based on the above considerations, staff recommended that Council agree to award the proposal of the System Assessment Report (SAR) for the Sherbrooke Water Utility to R.V Anderson Associates Limited in the amount of \$24,920.00 plus HST from the capital/gas tax reserve, less any potential applicable grants through the Province of Nova Scotia.
- Staff are investigating potential funding that may be available to recover some of the costs.
- Council asked if this study was required by the Province. The CAO advised that it is required by the Provincial Department of Environment under the water utility's Approval to Operate.

On recommendation of Councillor Harpell, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agreed to award the proposal of the System Assessment Report (SAR) for the Sherbrooke Water Utility to R.V Anderson Associates Limited in the amount of \$24,920.00 plus HST from the capital/gas tax reserve, less any potential applicable grants through the Province of Nova Scotia.

Recommendation adopted.

b. March Council Meeting Dates

- Staff proposed moving the March COTW meeting date from March 15th, 2023 to March 8th, 2023 due to March Break and potential staff/council vacancies.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, Council agreed to change the COTW Meeting date from March 15th, 2023 to March 8th, 2023.

Recommendation approved.

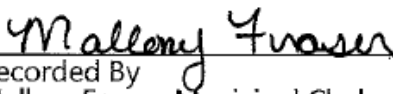
c. District of St. Mary's Queen's Platinum Jubilee Recipients

- Residents Debbie Findlay, Donnie Fraser, Lewis MacIntosh, and Keith Horton of the District of St. Mary's received the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal Award. The medal has been created to mark the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne. The focus of this program is to honour those who have devoted themselves to the service of others, especially throughout the pandemic, be it as a result of their job, volunteer work or contributions to their community. The Municipality would like to congratulate the recipients and thank them for their service to others.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 4:43 pm.

Motion approved.


Recorded By
Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk


Approved By
Warden Wier